

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPIC-03 AF-06 OMB-01 SY-05 OPR-02

A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /094 W
----- 036555

P R 291633Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4427

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5721

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) LISBON 5569 DTG 221424Z SEP 75

(B) LISBON 5681 DTG 261428Z SEP 75

(C) LISBON 5679 DTG 261355Z SEP 75

(D) LISBON 5698 DTG 271250Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: ATTEMPTED ARMS ROBBERY AT MILITARY BASE, DISCOVERY OF
ARMS CACHE, AND RESIGNATION OF INFANTRY SCHOOL COMMANDER ILLUS-
TRATED INCREASING BREAKDOWN OF AUTHORITY IN LISBON AREA. VAR-
IOUS LEFT AND FAR LEFT DEMONSTRATIONS OVER WEEKEND WERE NOISY
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BUT UNIMPRESSIVE IN NUMBER. LEFT, INCLUDING PCP, IS ACTIVELY

PROMOTING DISORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. ABORTIVE ARMS ROBBERY AT ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT: FIVE MEN, DRESSED IN ARMY UNIFORMS, FAILED IN APPARENT EFFORT TO SEIZE ARMS FROM BARRACKS OF FIXED ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT OF PAF IN PORTO BRANDAO EARLY SEPT 28. THE FIVE ASSAILANTS, ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC PISTOLS AND G-3 RIFLES, OVERPOWERED THE SENTINEL, BUT FLED WHEN CONFRONTED, WOUNDING ONE OF THEIR OWN GROUP IN THE PROCESS.

2. ARMS CACHES UNCOVERED: COPCON REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED A CACHE OF 80 KILOS OF PLASTIQUE EXPLOSIVES AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF WAR MATERIAL SEPT 25, IN TWO HOMES NEAR LISBON. (REF D). FIVE INDIVIDUALS WITH REPORTED LINKS TO ELP WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCOVERIES. THE EXPLOSIVES UNCOVERED WERE FROM LARGE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES STOLEN FROM SINES IN AUGUST. PRESS REPORTED THAT NAVAL CLUB BOMB OF SEPT 21 (REF A) AND MONSANTO PARK BOMB OF SEPT 25 (REF B) WERE

ALSO FROM THE SINES STOCK.

3. MAFRA COMMANDER RESIGNS: COMMANDER OF MAFRA INFANTRY SCHOOL RESIGNED IN PROTEST AGAINST SEPT 26 RELEASE OF TWO SUV MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED AFTER DISTRIBUTING SUV LITERATURE AT MAFRA (REF C). A GROUP OF MAFRA OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS BACKED THEIR COMMANDER, AND ASKED HIM TO RECONSIDER.

4. PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL: PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL MET SEPT 27 AND 28 IN OPORTO. NO DATE WAS SET FOR RETURN OF SA CARNEIRO AS SECRETARY GENERAL OR FOR SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS. SA CARNEIRO PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN COUNCIL, AND REQUESTED INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP.

5. SEPT 28 COMMEMORATION: THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SPINOLA'S REMOVAL FROM THE PRESIDENCY WAS CELEBRATED BY THE PCP AND NUMEROUS LEFTIST GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

(A) PCP RALLY IN LISBON: SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTENDED A SEPT 27 COMBINATION RALLY -- OUTDOOR FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY THE PCP IN LISBON. NOTEWORTHY ELEMENTS OF ALVARO CUNHAL'S SPEECH
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WERE THE FOLLOWING:

-- STRONG AND "UNHESITANT" CONDEMNATION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN LISBON.

-- CALL FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IN SOUTHERN PORTUGAL.

-- A WARNING TO "CERTAIN PARTIES AND CONSERVATIVE MILITARY LEADERS" THAT, IN A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION, GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE CONDUCTED MERELY BY SHIFTING GOVERNMENTAL POSTS AROUND, BUT MUST TAKE INTO

ACCOUNT WILL OF "POPULAR MASSES."

-- ANOTHER WARNING THAT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY CRISIS HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY OVERCOME.

(B) FAR LEFT RALLIES: THE RALLY, ORGANIZED BY FUR IN LISBON, DREW SEVERAL THOUSAND ADHERENTS SUNDAY, SEPT 28. AFTER MEETING IN A "DAY OF COMBAT" AGAINST REACTION, THE DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED TO THE SAO BENTO PALACE TO SUPPORT THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF HANDICAPPED VETERANS. THE UDP ALSO DEMONSTRATED SEPT 28 IN LISBON AGAINST "FASCISM" AND "FRANCO." THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, NUMEROUS, SMALLER DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ORGANIZED BY THE LEFT TO COMMEMORATE SEPT 28.

6. COMMENT: THE DISCOVERY OF THE TWO ARMS CACHES COULD EXPLAIN MANY RECENT BOMBINGS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY ONLY BEEN SUSPECTED TO BE THE WORK OF ELP.

7. SEPT 28 DEMONSTRATIONS WERE SOMEWHAT SUBDUED IN MAGNITUDE, IF NOT IN STRIDENCY, AFTER THE FRENETIC PACE OF LAST WEEK'S SUV AND ANTI-FRANCO PROTESTS. THE FAR LEFT HAS MADE CLEAR IN THE PAST WEEK THAT IT WILL SEIZE EVERY PRETEXT TO ATTACK WHAT IT CONSIDERS A REACTIONARY GOVERNMENT. THE FAR LEFT WILL SUPPORT THE PROTESTS OF OTHER GROUPS, AND PROMOTE GENERAL DISORDER IN THE ARMED FORCES, AND IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. THE PACE OF LAST WEEK'S PROTESTS ARE INDICATIVE OF THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN TO THE FAR LEFT BY THE CLIMATE OF INDISCIPLINE AND LACK OF AUTHORITY. THE PCP HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY MORE CIRCUMSPECT THAN THE FAR LEFT IN ITS ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT. WHERE POSSIBLE, THE PCP HAS SUPPORTED THE PROTESTS OF OTHERS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT FROM BEHIND THE SCENES, WHILE OPENLY DIRECTING ITS CHALLENGES INTO AREAS OF ACCEPTED ACTIVITY, SUCH AS LAND-REFORM. LAND REFORM ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO PCP BECAUSE OF NEED TO GET MONEY TO THE FARMERS, WHO AT PCP INSTIGATION SEIZED LAND IN THE ALENTEJO REGION

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ALENTEJO IS A STRONGHOLD OF COMMUNIST STRENGTH.
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